

1 Boil 'em Cabbage Down

This tune was first performed in minstrel shows before the American Civil War.
 "Hoe cake" is bread that slaves baked on garden hoes over an open fire.

Musical score for "Boil 'em Cabbage Down". The score is in 2/4 time and the key of A major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The piece is divided into four systems of five measures each. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, D, A, E7, A. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-3. A box labeled 'A' is above the first measure of the first system, and a box labeled 'B' is above the first measure of the third system. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

(verses and chorus sung to A part)

1. Went up on the mountain to give my horn a blow
 Thought I heard my true love say, "Yonder stands my beau"
 Raccoon and a 'possum running side by side
 Raccoon asked the 'possum, "Won't you be my bride?"

•chorus•

Boil 'em cabbage down boys, turn, turn the hoe cake brown
 The only song that I can sing is boil 'em cabbage down

2. Raccoon up a 'simmon tree, 'possum on the ground
 Raccoon said to the 'possum, "Shake them 'simmons down"
 Jay bird died with the whooping cough, sparrow died with the colic
 Along came a frog with a fiddle on his back,
 inquiring his way to the frolic

3. Took my dog to the blacksmith's shop to have his mouth made small
 He turned around a time or two, and swallowed the shop and all